



Club Officers for 2008-2009

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|
| President | Dick Baber | 322-8074 |
| V. Pres., Pres. Elect | Gary Gutttau | 487-3248 |
| Secretary | Dale Willenborg | 366-6815 |
| Treasurer | Jeff Jorgensen | 487-3355 |
| Past President | Dale Willenborg | 366-6815 |

| Board Members | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 2007-2009 | 2008-2010 |
| John Klein | Judy Gutttau |
| Bob Hibbard | John Schmitt |
| Denny White | |

March 28, 2009

Vol. 25 No. 19

Report of Recent Club Meeting

President Richard Baber opened the Optimist Club meeting on March 28 and Bob Hibbard gave the opening prayer. There were 18 members and two guests present. Jim Clausen won the 50/50 drawing and Dennis White won the attendance drawing.

John Klein contributed to the Youth Fund because his son Hans went on a field trip to India. Jeff Jorgensen contributed because his wife works at KVSS radio, 88.9 FM, Catholic Radio. They raised about \$250,000 in a Care-a-thon. Dick Baber also contributed.

Jeff Jorgensen, Steve Irvin, Kevin Underwood, and Marsha Underwood helped with can sorting. Proceeds were for the Jr. Optimist Club. April proceeds will be for the Treynor Yearbook.

Mark H. Tompkins

Mark Tompkins spoke at the Optimist Club this week. He is from the 5th Cavalry Historical Society and is an avid history reader and loves to share in that history. He has met many High School students that don't know much about American history, even World War II history.

Mr. Tompkins told a story about his ancestor Abram Tompkins. In 1852 Abram came to Iowa from Michigan with his wife and twelve children. He served in the legislature from Tama County from 1855-1867.

A neighbor of Abram Tompkins was James Wilson, who also served in the legislature at the same time. James Wilson was born in Scotland. James Wilson, and was known as Tama James Wilson. He was also a Secretary of Agriculture and held a cabinet position longer than anyone else had.

In 1885 Ulysses S. Grant voluntarily gave up his commission and with it his pension. He was later swindled out of the rest of his money. When the legislature found out that he was broke just before the inauguration on 4 March 1885, they tried to pass legislation giving him his pension back. At the last

minute in the legislature, there was another issue to resolve, that of a contested election of Tama James Wilson and his competitor. Wilson voluntarily ended his contest of the election, thereby losing his seat, so the legislature would have time to vote on giving Grant his pension back. Grant died less than six months later. He was to receive a pension of \$13,000 per year, and his widow \$5000 per year.

About the Civil War, Tompkins said that no subject in America has been written about more than the Civil War. Never in a war have so many Americans died in such short conflicts. In Gettysburg there were 800 men fighting in a battle that lasted about 45 minutes. Only 14 remained at the end. In three days, 20,000 men died.

Mark Tompkins served in the Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard for 35 years. He said he will talk about American History for anyone.

CALENDAR

The March Can Kennel contributions will be for the Treynor Yearbook. Total collections are \$69,012 through January 2009.

April 15, Wed TBD. – Can Kennel sorting
 April 29, Wed TBD. – Can Kennel sorting

Birthdays

Apr 20 – Steve Chambers
 Apr 25 – Rocky Saar
 Apr 30 – Jim Clausen

Anniversaries

Apr 4 – John & Kathy Schmitt
 Apr 7 – Jim Clausen

Speakers

April 4 – John Schulz & Ross Gwynn, missionaries
 April 11 – Bob Vander Plaats, candidate for Governor in 2010

Programs

April – Dale Willenborg
 May – Richard Vorthmann

PS:

- "Daddy, are caterpillars good to eat?" "We don't discuss things like that at the dinner table." A short time later the boy said, "Never mind, dad. That caterpillar was on your lettuce, but he's all gone now."
- A little boy came running to the store. "My daddy is being chase by a bull." "What do you want me to do about it?" "Putsome film in my camera."
- George Washington's father did not punish him for cutting down the cherry tree, because George still hav the hatchet in his hand.
- My grandchild kept wanting me to make a noise like a frog. "Why are you always wanting me to make a noise like a frog?" "Cause grandma said that when you croaked, she would take us all to Hawaii."
- I ran research all over the United States and when it was finished, I found that I had the best grandkids in the United States.